



U.S. Department of Justice

RONALD C. MACHEN JR.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

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For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 514-6933

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District man sentenced to 25 years in prison for photographing a 7-year-old child while he was sexually abusing her

WASHINGTON - McKinley Hunt, a 45-year-old resident of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today to 25 years in prison by the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia for sexually abusing a child during a three-year period beginning when the child was 7 years old, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr., Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Chief Cathy L. Lanier, and Shawn Henry, Assistant Director in Charge of the Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Hunt previously entered a guilty plea to one count of Production of Child Pornography and two counts of First Degree Child Sexual Abuse with Aggravating Circumstances.

During today's court proceeding, Judge Sullivan expressed deep disdain for the behavior of the defendant before sentencing him to 25 years in prison followed by a lifetime of supervised release.

According to the evidence presented during the prior plea proceeding and today's sentencing hearing, the child reported to a family member that Hunt had sexually abused her several times during the past three years, beginning when she was 7 years old. On July 1, 2009, members of the Metropolitan Police Department arrested Hunt. A subsequent search of Hunt and his room in a rooming house revealed that he possessed more than 50 images of the child, including photographs of the child in sexually explicit poses and photographs of the defendant performing sexual acts on the child. The photographs were saved on Hunt's computers. Also saved on Hunt's computers were numerous still images and videos of other children engaging in sexual activity.

Following his arrest, Hunt admitted sexually abusing the child on multiple occasions between the time the child was 7 years old and the present. Hunt also admitted photographing the child in sexually explicit poses.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood and the Regional Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. In February 2006, the Attorney General created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorney's Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

In announcing today's sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen, MPD Chief Lanier, and FBI Assistant Director in Charge Henry commended the outstanding work of Victim Witness Advocate Yvonne Bryant, MPD Detectives Timothy Palchak and Andre Davis, FBI Special Agent Michael French, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Julieanne Himmelstein and Cassidy Kesler Pinegar who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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